

## CASE OF CAPTAIN CARTER.

UNPRECEDENTED DELAY IN ACTING ON HIS SENTENCE.

MORE THAN A YEAR SINCE THE VERDICT WAS RENDERED—PROMPT ACTION ON OTHER COURT MARTIAL CASES.

Washington, Aug. 25.—On April 20, 1898, Charles M. Carter, captain of engineers, United States Army, was convicted by a court martial of stealing \$1,700,000 from the Federal Government while in charge of the improvement of Savannah Harbor, gross neglect of duty and conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman. The sentence imposed was dismissal from the Army, to pay a fine of \$10,000 and to be imprisoned at hard labor for five years.

On May 1, 1898, the records in the case reached the Secretary of War, who immediately transmitted them, according to the usual custom, to the Judge Advocate General for review. The case was examined by Judge Advocate General Lieber, the findings of the court martial were approved and the case was resubmitted to the Secretary of War on July 2, 1898. General Alger, then Secretary of War, forwarded the findings to the President on July 10, 1898, and from that date to the present time it has hung fire. Five thousand dollars was paid to ex-Senator Edmunds to review the case and render a legal opinion, which was done, with the result, it is said, that Mr. Edmunds found no flaw in the decision of the court martial. The case was then sent to the Attorney General for an opinion on technicalities raised by Wayne MacVeagh, employed by the defendant, and it has since remained in the Attorney General's office.

## AN INTERESTING COMPARISON.

The Carter case is without a parallel in the history of the country, considering the amount of money embezzled. A comparison, however, with other cases which have arisen in the last twenty years, where officers have embezzled money from the Government, and the punishment meted out to them by court martial, the findings of which were promptly approved by former Presidents of the United States, is interesting in view of the unprecedented delay in the final disposition of this now famous case.

On May 24, 1883, Major James R. Wasson, paymaster at San Antonio, Tex., was charged with the embezzlement of \$20,000 while stationed at Galveston. A court martial was ordered, which found Major Wasson guilty, and he was sentenced to dismissal from the service and to be confined at hard labor in such penitentiary as the proper authorities might designate for a period of eighteen months and that the crime, punishment, name and place of abode of the accused officer be published in the newspapers of the State from which he came and those of the place where he was stationed. The findings of the court martial were promptly approved by the Judge Advocate General, the Secretary of War, and lastly by President Arthur. On June 28, 1883, the first was rendered. The State Penitentiary at Lansing, Mich., was designated as the place of confinement.

On October 4, 1880, Major James H. Nelson, paymaster, stationed at New-York City, was convicted by court martial of the embezzlement of \$10,319.11, and was sentenced to be dismissed from the Army, to pay a fine of \$2,000, and to be imprisoned at hard labor in a Federal penitentiary for two years and until such fine was paid, providing the entire imprisonment did not exceed five years. A determined effort was made to secure Executive clemency by Major Nelson's friends in New-York, which resulted in a delay of nearly three months, but, after a thorough examination of the case, President Hayes approved the full sentence on January 21, 1881.

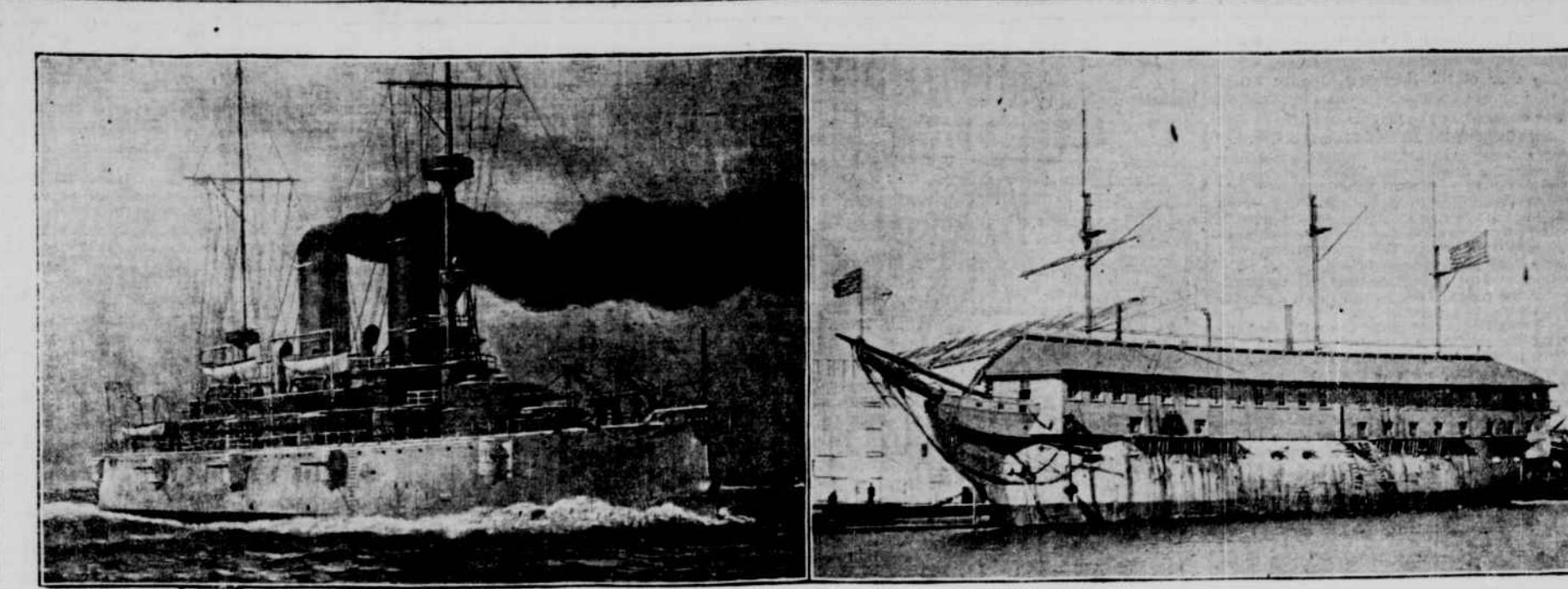
Another case of embezzlement occurred on October 17, 1890, at Fort Clark, Texas, where First Lieutenant George L. Turner, of the 18th Infantry, was convicted by court martial of disobedience of orders and of embezzlement of the regimental band funds, amounting to \$648.13. He was sentenced to be dismissed from the service and to be confined until he restored the band funds for not more than three years. Friends of the lieutenant vigorously protested against the sentence of the court martial, and tried to induce President Harrison to disapprove the findings. After a careful examination of the case President Harrison refused to interfere, whereupon friends of the officer paid the amount embezzled, and he was dishonorably dismissed from the service.

Another similar case was that of Captain George T. Olmstead, who embezzled, while in charge of certain military telegraph lines in the Department of Arizona, nearly \$2,000. He was tried by court martial at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, July 9, 1884, and sentenced to dismissal from the service and the payment of a fine of \$2,000, the amount embezzled. The fine imposed was promptly paid, and President Arthur approved the sentence of dismissal October 6, 1884.

## THREE CASES IN THIS ADMINISTRATION.

First Lieutenant John M. Neill, 4th Cavalry, was tried by court martial March 24, 1899, in California, for failure to render an account of post exchange funds of Troop B, 4th Cavalry. Before the trial occurred, however, his friends paid the amount of his embezzlement, and after a hearing of the case he was found guilty by court martial and sentenced to dismissal from the service. An effort was made to secure the reversal of the decision of the court martial, but on July 5, 1899, President McKinley approved the sentence.

Another case of particular interest at this time is that of Captain Leonard A. Lovett, who was tried by court martial at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, November 4, 1897, charged with conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline in cruel treatment of Private Charles

THE CRUISER OLYMPIA.  
A modern man-of-war.THE FRIGATE CONSTITUTION, "OLD IRONSIDES."  
An old-time fighter.

## ARMY AND NAVY ORDERS.

Washington, Aug. 25.—The following Army and Navy orders have been issued:

## ARMY.

Captain WILLIAM J. WAKEMAN, assistant surgeon, will proceed to Camp Meade, and examine certain recruits for the 28th Infantry, who have been reported as unfit for service.

Second Lieutenant JOHN P. HASON, 5th Infantry, Vancouver Barracks, for duty.

Second Lieutenant ALEXANDER C. MCKELVEY, 11th Infantry, will proceed to Columbus Barracks for duty with recruits en route to the Philippines.

Lieutenant COLONEL J. H. BULLOCK, Ordnance Department, will make two visits per month in August, September and October to the works of the Ordnance Department at Fort Leavenworth and enter upon duty pertaining to the organization of his regiment.

Captain WILLIAM A. RIVETT, 4th Infantry, will proceed to Fort Leavenworth and enter upon duty pertaining to the organization of his regiment.

Second Lieutenant ALBERT P. MORROW, 23d Infantry, will proceed to Fort Leavenworth and enter upon duty pertaining to the organization of his regiment.

Second Lieutenant PAUL D. STOKELY, 21st Infantry, will proceed to Fort Leavenworth and enter upon duty pertaining to the organization of his regiment.

First Lieutenant MERVIN C. BUCKLEY, 21st Infantry, will proceed to Fort Leavenworth and enter upon duty pertaining to the organization of his regiment.

Second Lieutenant THOMAS L. LEVACK, 4th Infantry, will proceed to Fort Leavenworth and enter upon duty pertaining to the organization of his regiment.

Second Lieutenant HERBERT G. WILLIAMS, 11th Infantry, will proceed to Fort Leavenworth and enter upon duty pertaining to the organization of his regiment.

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## "OLD IRONSIDES" HISTORY

RECOLLECTIONS CALLED UP BY THE

PLAN TO BRING HER HERE.

CONTRAST BETWEEN THE CONSTITUTION

AND THE OLYMPIA—GALLANT WAR-

SHIPS OF THE PAST AND

PRESENT.

That most gallant of our earlier naval vessels, the

Constitution, best known perhaps as "Old Iron-

sides," which has been spending an honorable old

age in the quiet retirement of the Portsmouth

Navy Yard, until recently, when she was sent to

Boston, may again be put in commission and carry

that ensign which it was supposed had been finally

haunted down in 1831, after being borne gallantly

aloft for more than eight decades. It is the desire

of the Dewey Reception Committee to bring the

Constitution to New-York, in order that she may

take part in the coming reception to Admiral Dewey

and afford a visible comparison to the welcoming

thousands and to the gallant Admiral himself be-

tween the earliest and latest prides of the American

Navy.

The accompanying cuts will give some idea of

what the contrast will be—the one vessel of wood,

the other of steel. The first is so perfect a type

of the old fashioned frigate that in equal or out-

numbered two to one, she never surrendered, and

for the first time at the bidding of an American

ship caused an English frigate to strike her flag.

The second, with others of her kind, of which she

was the guiding and directing spirit, destroyed a

fleet and wrested from the hands of Spain a great

empire in the Far East. The beginning and the